

REMARKS

Claims 21-58 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

The issues outstanding in this application are as follows:

- Claims 21-58 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,653,625B2.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejection, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the remarks contained herein.

Double Patenting

Claims 21-58 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,653,625B2. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants note that the '625B2 patent has an apparent patent term through March 19, 2021. A patent issuing from the present application would normally expire on March 19, 2021. Therefore, applicants expect no loss in patent term as a result of filing a terminal disclaimer in the present application. Without agreeing to the substance of the Examiner's rejection and in the interest of expediting the prosecution, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer over the '625B2 patent.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. 10102581 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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